



## Summer Enhancement for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Welcome to 5<sup>th</sup> grade! While you rest and enjoy your family over the summer, you are also required to do some reading. Please follow the directions and enjoy your summer!

- The following two books are required reading. You may purchase the books, borrow them from the public library, or download them as e-books.  
The Trumpet of the Swan by E. B. White and Wonder by R. J. Palacio
- Please follow these directions after you have read each book. Write a three paragraph essay about the book. Use notebook paper, with your name and the title of the book at the top. Use neat handwriting, please. Each paragraph should be at least four sentences.
  1. The first paragraph should be about the main character. Describe the character and explain what you liked about the character and why. Tell how the character handled difficulties they had to face.
  2. The second paragraph should be about the part of the book you found most exciting. Explain what happened.
  3. The third paragraph should tell how you liked the book. Write about your favorite part. Be sure to include if you learned anything from this book.
- Bring your two essays to school on the first day. They will be assessed for your first reading grade in 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

### Additional Expectations

The following suggestions are highly recommended to help make you well prepared for a successful 5<sup>th</sup> grade year.

1. Read an average of 20 minutes per day. Practicing reading is important, just like any other skill. Read what interests you, as other than the two required books, you can have free choice.
2. Practice your math facts. That includes adding, subtracting and dividing as well as multiplication up to 12's. You should be able to state each fact automatically without having to stop and think or figure it out. If you need help, make your own flash cards. You can also visit the following websites for fun ways to practice: [aplusmath.com](http://aplusmath.com) and [factmonster.com](http://factmonster.com).
3. Do some cooking! Follow the directions on a mix or from a recipe. Do your own measuring. Then enjoy what you prepared! Make this a regular activity.
4. Keep a summer journal. Write about places you visit, movies you see, books you read, how your cooking turned out, a new thing you learned, make sketches, add pictures, whatever you would like. I'd love to see it in the fall!
5. Learn something new. It could be sewing, knitting, riding a unicycle, swimming a new stroke, or how to play solitaire. (Card games are great for building math skills.)
6. Learn a musical instrument. Learning to read music is wonderful for your brain, and playing music is great fun!

7. Practice your cursive handwriting! It is required in 5<sup>th</sup> grade!
8. Stay away from the video and computer games! Limit that kind of fun to no more than ½ hour a day. Try some of these other activities, instead.
9. Same thing for watching TV. Put a limit on how many shows you can watch, and select them carefully. Don't fill your mind with unwholesome talk or behavior!
10. Go outside every day. Swim, ride your bike, play games or plant a garden.
11. Play board games. I especially recommend games that involve strategy, memory, numbers, letters and shapes. Get your family involved!
12. Pray, keep a prayer journal, attend VBS, go to Sunday School and church. Ask God to bless your family this summer and your school year in 5<sup>th</sup> grade!

Enjoy your summer, be safe, and we'll see each other in August!